R965

R 141202ZOCT79

AM-COUP 2-PARIS

IN RECENT MONTHS, BOKASSA HAS BEEN ISOLATED IN HIS BERENGO PALACE SOME 50 MILES (80 KM) OUTSIDE BANGUI, PROTECTED BY IMPERIAL GUARDS, THE COUNTRY'S ONLY EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE.

BOKASSA, A PASSIONATE ADMIRER OF FRANCE WHO USED TO CALL GENERAL DE GAULLE "MY ADOPTIVE FATHER," SHOCKED THE WORLD WHEN EVIDENCE ACCUMULATED OF A MASSACRE OF ABOUT 100 SCHOOLCHILDREN BY HIM AND HIS GUARDS LAST APRIL.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WAS THE FIRST TO REPORT THE ATROCITIES, AND AMNESTY'S CHARGES WERE LATER BACKED UP BY A LEGAL COMMISSION APPOINTED BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH MADE AN ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION.

FRENCH OFFICIALS SAID THE DISPATCH OF ABOUT 300 SOLDIERS AT THE REQUEST OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS ESSENTIEL TO FILL A DANGEROUS POWER VACUUUM. THE IMPERIAL GUARD HAD TO BE DISBANDED AND THE EMPIRE'S REGULAR TROOPS WERE IMMEDIATELY ARMED.

THE FRENCH TROOPS IMMEDIATELY FANNED OUT IN THE CAPITAL TODAY TO CONTROL THE DELIRIOUS CROWDS AND HAD TO FIRE BLANKS IN THE AIR TO CLEAR THE STREETS, A LOCAL JOURNALIST IN BANGUI TOLD REUTERS BY TELEPHONE.

NNNN 1210

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY MCS DATE 10/23/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ DOWNGRADABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 141559ZOCT79

AM-COUP 3-PARIS

PRESIDENT DACKO, 49, WHO HIMSELF WAS DEPOSED AS HEAD OF STATE IN 1966 BY BOKASSA, SAID IN A TECHNICIAN TO THE NATIONS A FORMER FRENCH COLONY, THAT IT WAS THE MASSACRE OF CHILDREN WHICH HAD FINALLY SHEPT BOKASSA FROM POWER ON A WAVE OF "UNIVERSAL ABHORRENCE."

"FOR YEARS THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN EXPLOITED BY THIS MAN WHO LAUGHED IT IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD THROUGH HIS EXCESSES," THE NEW LEADER SAID.

SOURCES IN BANGUI SAID ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT HAD RALLIED TO PRESIDENT DACKO, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER HENRI MAIDOU. THE PRESIDENT HAD INVITED THEM TO REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR THE TIME BEING.

IN PARIS, THE DEPOSED EMPEROR'S ESTRANGED SON, GEORGES, SAID HIS FATHER WAS IN LIBYA TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A GOVERNMENT LOAN FROM COLONEL MUAMMAR QADDAFI WHEN TOPPLED FROM POWER.

THE NEWSPAPER LE MONDE QUOTED REPORTS FROM BANGUI THAT EMPEROR BOKASSA WAS PROPOSING TO ALLOW THE LIBYANS TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY BASE IN THE EMPIRE IN EXCHANGE FOR FINANCIAL AID.

NNNN 1233